

KEEP QUIET OR FACE THE SACK

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By GORDON THOMSON

A ROW has erupted over attempts to gag health workers in Glasgow.

Staff with the city's community and primary care unit face the sack if they talk about their work - to their MP, union, professional body or the media.

The shock threat was made by unit general manager Jim Laing.

His ruling is contained in a hard-hitting memo written the day after the Evening Times published shock claims by Dr Elizabeth Wilson who quit in anger after 25 years as co-ordinator of family planning services.

PERSONAL

Her allegations were dismissed by Mr Laing - her former boss - as "untrue".

Mr Laing accuses a number of staff - some in senior management positions - of talking "with third parties, in response to complaints or to offer personal views and comments on this unit's service provision".

He says he will take tough action if there is any repeat.

The memo also reveals two



DR WILSON... spoke to Evening Times after quitting

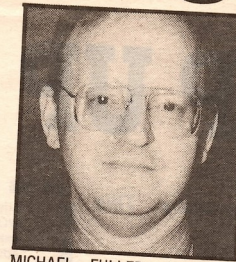
earlier incidents when:

- **STAFF** wrongly said provision was being withdrawn for a group of children with special needs;

- **GOVERNMENT** ministers were sent letters on unit-headed stationery complaining about staffing levels.

Mr Laing warns: "On no account will any member of staff whilst acting as a board employee, make unauthorised comment on any aspect of this unit's services to any client or client group, to any part of the media or to any other authority, body or person."

It was "utterly irresponsible" for any member of staff to in-



MICHAEL FULLER... board scared of the truth

dulge their personal and or professional views in this way.

"Such conduct risks summary dismissal."

The action was slammed by Jim Devine, Scottish regional officer with the Confederation of Health Service Employees. "This is ridiculous. It means they are clamping down and refusing to allow staff to speak to outside parties

Michael Fuller, Scottish regional officer with the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, condemned the move saying: "The health board is clearly frightened of the truth."

"We're totally opposed to the imposition of Stalinist methods.

Mr Fuller is also chairman of the city's joint health unions committee and said the warning was a clear breach of the board's consultative process.

Mr Laing was not available for comment but a Greater Glasgow Health Board spokeswoman insisted the memo was not related to Dr Wilson's allegations.

Instead, she said it resulted from two serious incidents when two special schools were wrongly told speech therapy sessions were to end and an elderly patient was wrongly told her physiotherapy sessions were to be axed.

However, health board boss Laurence Peterkin has fuelled the row with his own confidential memo to every unit general manager, directors at headquarters and his press office staff, warning "Press releases will never be issued unless they have been approved by me or someone I have delegated the task to."

- The Scottish Home and Health Department's recent code of conduct for health authorities says the only matter of confidentiality affecting staff is a patient's personal details.

Dr Wilson was not available for comment.

Board accused over changes at hospital

By BILL CAVEN

GREATER Glasgow Health Board was accused yesterday of putting cash savings before patient care with its decision to reduce ear, nose, and throat services at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

The decision, announced by the health board on Tuesday as part of a shake-up, was attacked by Mr Ian Swan, an honorary consultant and senior lecturer in ENT at the Royal.

He said the board had ignored medical opinion that it keep in-patient services at GRI, instead of transferring them from the east of the city to Stobhill Hospital.

Highlighting the importance of the ENT department at the Royal, which also offers specialised teaching and research facilities, Mr Swan said: "I believe that the health board has taken a retro-

grade step in closing this unit down.

"Apart from carrying out complicated surgery not readily available elsewhere in the city, the Royal is the main teaching hospital for ear, nose, and throat, and also a large amount of time is spent on research."

Stressing that the ENT unit dealt with the largest number of inpatients in Glasgow north of the Clyde, the consultant said the department handled around 1200 emergency referrals annually from the Royal accident and emergency unit.

He continued: "We prepared a detailed report on the workings of the department, including the results of a questionnaire carried out with the help of the patients, and submitted this to the health board.

"But it would appear that our points have been ignored by the health

board in its quest to make savings."

Under the new arrangements, ear, nose, and throat patients will have surgery at Stobhill; the Royal will deal only with outpatients.

Mr Swan said: "It will be very difficult to provide an adequate standard of care if we are not in the hospital all the time. The patients' stay in hospital is also going to be much more unpleasant as people living in the east of the city will find it difficult to visit them."

Mr Swan said he was hoping to arrange an urgent meeting with Mr Laurence Peterken, chairman of Greater Glasgow Health Board.

A spokesperson for Greater Glasgow Health Board dismissed suggestions that future ENT emergency cases at the Royal Infirmary would suffer as a result of the switch to Stobhill.

By ALAN CLEMENTS

Wembley evokes memories both sad for most Scottish soccer fans. Today Wembley was host to most important fixtures of the and it had nothing to do with

le ago the Special Labour at Wembley decided on a new electing a leader. This provoked split from the Labour Party and into years of turmoil. Yet the and fall sits snugly in the eighties amphant Bennites of 1981 would recognise Neil Kinnock's "new Labour Party. What happened?" e-day conference on Saturday, t, 1981, took two decisions. First, to elect the leader of the Labour (thus any Labour Prime Minister) from the Parliamentary Labour rasp and given to an electoral then, more controversially, that mposition was set at 40% to the 0% to the constituency activists to the MPs.

el Foot, just two months into his p had put his personal weight 50:25:25 formula, with the MPs half the votes. This defeat was a g blow to his authority. Foot's p never recovered.

while a jubilant Tony Benn, ing that this decision had "changed rse of British history", promised "democratise" the party further. left, control of MPs would mean no right-wing backsliding in future governments. The next day's w Herald noted that those MPs who ected Michael Foot leader in the tion of a quiet life were likely to be mistaken. And so they were.

Labour right, outfought and oeuvred, faced a bleak choice. Some, y Denis Healey, accepted the tion and soldiered on. But for others the last straw. The next day dissidents ed the Limehouse declaration from Owen's home. The SDP was born.

ay David Owen remembers the day as and fateful one. "I had only started to of leaving the Labour Party after the er 1980 conference, but this was the l decision. We could have fought to

reverse political decisions such as the commitment to leave the EC without a referendum, but this constitutional change took away our power. Bennery meant democracy of the mandate. It undermined the whole Burkian philosophy that an MP represented his constituents rather than his party activists.

"I hoped and hoped against hope that the electoral college would not be carried. Indeed, I had told Roy Jenkins the week before that if we had won I would have had no option but to stay in the Labour Party and fight my corner. But it was not to be."

George Galloway, now the Glasgow Hillhead Labour MP, was then a Benn supporter and poised to become the youngest-ever Scottish Party chairman later that year. That day brings back very different memories for him.

"There was a real electricity in the air. The seating was random and I found myself beside Neville Sanderson, the right-wing MP who was soon to defect to the SDP and is now a Tory candidate. I felt like hitting him as he kept bellowing 'Go back to Moscow' to Alex Kitson throughout the day. It was that type of atmosphere. It is amazing to think we were ever in the same party."

The vote on the make-up of the electoral college was a real cliffhanger, but was lent a comic air by the bewildering behaviour of Terry Duffy, the right-wing leader of the engineers. Galloway recalls: "Because Duffy wouldn't support any resolution that gave the MPs any less than 51% of the vote he abstained on the 50:25:25 formula, thus letting the left's formula of 30:30:40 win. It was so bizarre that the joke running round the hall was that Terry wanted all three groups to get 50%! Nevertheless the left clearly outmanoeuvred the right. It was like a US Convention with organisers running round the hall lobbying delegates."

Donald Dewar, now Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, remembers this "tense and unfortunate day" as a tragic one for the Labour Party. He vividly recalls many long discussions on the right about the future but he was clear where he stood. "Although I

was on many people's 'reserve' list for the SDP, I was never tempted and never asked. In the end it was a question of where I felt at home. I still believed the Labour Party was right on most issues.

"But the SDP defection was a tragedy," continued Dewar. "Wembley condemned the Labour Party to years of internal strife, from which only Mrs Thatcher benefited. In the first instance, the Wembley victory encouraged Benn to stand for the deputy leadership later that year. His narrow defeat seemed a new high, but it was actually the peak for the Bennite left."

But why did the left, triumphant in 1981, lose influence so completely? Tony Benn has no desire to discuss the issue, but others are not so reticent. For David Owen "it was nothing more or less than the brutal realities of election defeats in 1983 and 1987 which

pushed Labour into reform. "It was conversion by the ballot box."

George Galloway accepts Owen's analysis, but believes the retreat of the left in the eighties must be placed in a broader context. "Internationally, the left was losing ground everywhere and this was magnified in a conservative country like Britain. Also, the left lost its nerve faced with the gigantic figure of Mrs Thatcher and her ability to put across her ideas forcefully and clearly. More particularly, Benn went off on an ultra-left binge in the mid-eighties which alienated much of his coalition."

Donald Dewar also accepts the pivotal role of successive General Elections. "But, unsurprisingly, prefers to accentuate the positive. He believes the Benn-Healey contest was the great cathartic and that following that the left was not so much

defeated as co-opted in a strong unified party. "This unity has been Neil Kinnock's great achievement. The left and right no longer run separate 'slates' for the Shadow Cabinet elections. The atmosphere is much better. I remember when MPs refused to speak to each other."

Dewar certainly has a point. The Labour Party enters the 1990s in infinitely better heart than it entered the 1980s. Yet the doubts remain. Many believe that Labour's unity is skin deep, sewn together by a desire to win power and a hatred of Mrs Thatcher. Now that she has gone, Labour must articulate a positive vision of its own plans, straining the present consensus. Another electoral defeat could rip it apart, on left-right or even English-Scottish seams. The ghost of Wembley has not yet been laid to rest.



■ Top: Tony Benn triumphant and Michael Foot defeated in 1981, while below, the "gang of four" later that year at the SDP conference in Perth.

Making the Mid

s Scotland raises its voice in C

Moves on freedom of speech law

By **BARCLAY McBAIN**,
Education Correspondent

SCOTTISH Education Minister Mr Ian Lang yesterday confirmed that the Government was looking at importing English legislation to force Scottish universities, colleges, and further education institutions to guarantee freedom of speech as a legal requirement.

Glasgow University Principal Sir William Fraser said more than a week ago that the "thuggish" behaviour of Glasgow University students last month had caused the Government to consider implementing the section of the 1986 Education Act which imposed on higher and further education institutions a duty to ensure freedom of speech for those associated with the establishments and for visiting speakers.

Sir William berated those students responsible for jostling Education Secretary Mr John MacGregor and damaging his car during his visit to the university. Mr MacGregor

some of whom also threw eggs.

Sir William told the university's General Council that it had been a "lamentable" display, which had put Glasgow in a weak position to resist the introduction of such an onerous obligation.

Mr Lang's statement yesterday did not mention Glasgow University, but the Minister said he was one of the people who felt very strongly about securing free speech in universities and colleges.

"So far, there has been no need in Scotland for legislation in this area. However, the 1986 Education Act introduced provisions that were deemed necessary to protect free speech in universities and colleges in England and Wales, and we have now decided to consult interested parties on whether or not arrangements to safeguard free speech are now necessary in Scotland," he said.

The SED yesterday wrote to universities, colleges and education

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Property

carriages.

The viaduct, which has 19 semi-circular arches, was built for the Berwickshire Railway, which ran from a junction on the Hawick branch of the North British Railway, just south of

number of monuments in our care relating to Scotland's industrial past."

A programme of masonry repairs will be carried out over the next year with financial assistance from the Railway Heritage

1930 Greasley carriages will be placed on the embankment, one fitted out as a tearoom and ticket office and the other will be used as an exhibition coach. It is hoped to open the visitor centre to the public in 1992.

auke. He was the highest paid of the state industry chairmen of the day.

Described as "a forceful and erratically brilliant chairman", Sir Monty's aim was to streamline the

undoubtedly the technical strength of the steel industry today owes much to the effort he put in to encouraging its technological competitiveness."

Queen's personal wealth rises by 25%

DESPITE the recession, the Queen's personal wealth rose by 25% in the last year through astute investment advice, according to a survey published today.

Imelda Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, is ranked the third richest woman despite the seizure of much of her wealth.

If this year is a worse investment one for the Queen, with a mere 10% return, it is estimated she will still earn just over £1,800,000 a day.

The Queen, with assets of £6600m, is easily the world's richest woman in the survey by Harpers and Queen magazine.

All Crown assets were left out of the calculations because they are not the monarch's to sell. For that reason Queen

Beatrix of the Netherlands, who would otherwise rank third with £2500m, was not rated among the most wealthy women.

The bulk of the Queen's private fortune is made up of a worldwide portfolio of blue-chip stocks, with the balance accounted for by private houses and personal possessions.

"Rising prices for top-of-the-line jewellery and winning racehorses at stud have helped underlying asset values at the House of Windsor," says the magazine, "but most helpful of all is the Queen's exemption from taxes."

Mrs Marcos, who last year was found not guilty in New York on racketeering and fraud charges, is estimated to have property shares and an art collection together valued at £1500m. She acquired a

personal fortune through her late husband, who died in exile after being deposed

"Although £400m has been frozen in Switzerland, £200m seized in the Philippines, and £100m is in dispute in America, this is probably the tip of the iceberg of Marcos's wealth," states Harpers and Queen.

Second in the list is Johanna Quandt, widow of the BMW car magnate, with £2600m.

Only one of the women, German mail-order tycoon Grete Schickedanz — ranked tenth with £900m — can be said to have made it to the top with her own entrepreneurial skills.

The top 10 is:

1 The Queen, aged 64, assets £6600m.

2 Johanna Quandt, 63, £2600m.

3 Imelda Marcos, 61, £1500m.

4 Anne Cox Chambers, 70, American publisher's daughter, £1400m.

5 Barbara Cox Anthony, 67, sister of Anne Chambers, £1400m.

6 Liliane Bettencourt, 67, French daughter of L'Oreal cosmetics entrepreneur, £1300m.

7 Jacqueline Mars Vogel, 51, American daughter of Mars Inc. magnate, £1200m.

8 Alice L. Walton, 41, daughter of American discount retailer Sam Walton, £1000m.

9 Heidi Horton, 49, widow of German department store founder, £950m.

10 Grete Schickedanz, 78, German self-made millionairess, £900m.

Highland group opposes national parks

By DAVID ROSS

COMMUNITIES in the Highlands are moving to

and present, within a conservationist context. They had been environmentally minded long before modern concerns.

guage, its poetry — and above all, its people".

But it would take time and require legislation perhaps

this could have a catastrophic effect on the merger of CCS and NCC, because

ism" in the form of